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California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

Karl E. Longley, ScD, P.E., Chair



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2 February 2009

Mr. Donn Zea, Executive Director
Northern California Water Association
Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition
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APPROVAL FOR WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN – SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATER QUALITY COALITION

On 1 December 2008, the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submitted a Water Quality Management Plan to meet the conditions of *Monitoring and Reporting Program Order No. R5-2008-0005 for Coalition Groups Under Amended Order No. R5-2006-0053, Coalition Group Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands*. The Coalition's Management Plan describes an overall approach for monitoring and management practice activities that will take place throughout the Coalition area, as well as site-specific management plan activities and implementation schedules for each water body and parameter.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Regional Water Board), provided comments on the 1 December 2008 Management Plan to the Coalition on 9 January 2009. In response to the Regional Water Board comments, the Coalition submitted a final Management Plan on 26 January 2009.


The Coalition's Management Plan demonstrates their commitment to work with the Regional Water Board on the Central Valley's salinity problems through participation in the CV-SALTS Program. The Coalition's Management Plan will also need to address their members' responsibilities to implement the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basin Plan Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for chlorpyrifos and diazinon. The Coalition shall submit an addendum to the Management Plan by 30 April 2009 that identifies the actions planned to reduce pesticide discharges to the Delta and tributaries of the Sacramento and Feather Rivers. In addition, it will be necessary for the Coalition to specifically identify actions being taken to address TMDLs in each annual Management Plan report.

I want to make it clear that all growers in the Coalition are obligated to meet the conditions of the Coalition Group waiver. Failure of individual participants to respond to requests by the Coalition will put their status under the Coalition Group waiver in jeopardy. The Coalition's members that refuse to cooperate, after a concerted effort on the part of the Coalition, should have their membership canceled and their failure to maintain membership communicated to the Regional Water Board.

In summary, the basic approach for source identification, mitigation actions, effectiveness monitoring, and outreach described in the Coalition's Management Plan is appropriate, and I am granting approval of the Management Plan. With this approval, the Coalition meets the Management Plan development requirements of the Coalition Group waiver¹ for those parameters and water bodies identified in Appendix A of the Coalition's Management Plan.

It is fully anticipated that the Coalition will need to modify the Management Plan over time, as new monitoring data and performance measures inform us about the effectiveness of the actions, and as activities for other water bodies need to be described. These modifications will need to be discussed and evaluated with Regional Water Board staff during the designated quarterly meetings and documented in Management Plan updates. Any updates will need to receive my approval as Executive Officer.

If there are any questions concerning these requirements, please contact Susan Fregien at 916-464-4813, or by email at sfregien@waterboards.ca.gov.



PAMELA C. CREEDON
Executive Officer

¹ B.6. of Amended Attachment B, Order No. R5-2006-0053.